## Lovingood votes to block Oak Hills solar project

Following an extensive public hearing, the Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to reject a solar power plant slated for an Oak Hills neighborhood.

First District Supervisor Robert Lovingood said the 20-acre solar project was not appropriate for the residential area. The facility would have been bounded by Fir Street, El Centro Road, Fuente Avenue and Bandicoot Trail.

"The consensus in the neighborhood is that this commercial solar project doesn't belong there," Lovingood said. "However, we also know that residents in other areas aren't opposed."

He noted that at a Planning Commission hearing last August, 23 of the 24 speakers opposed the project. The Planning Commission rejected the 2.7 megawatt project. But the applicant appealed to the Board of Supervisors, which on Tuesday upheld the Planning Commission's decision.

Because the project was submitted before last year's county solar moratorium and subsequent solar ordinance, the project was allowed to proceed through the review process.

The new solar ordinance sets clear guidance as Planning Commissioners in evaluating solar projects. Over the next year, county officials will work on revising the county General Plan, which will incorporate and refine county solar policy.

In other action, Lovingood supported a 300-megawatt solar project on Bureau of Land Management land near Stateline.

"This Stateline solar project is in an appropriate location and will employ about 400 to 600 workers during construction," Lovingood said. "During its 30-year life, it will generate about \$80 million in sales tax revenues and about \$20 million in property tax revenue."

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Closer to home, Lovingood backed plans for a water storage tank to improve water pressure and fire protection in Spring Valley Lake.